

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 970
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Captain Brent L. Morel
of the United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Marine Corps today; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Captain Brent L. Morel of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, lost his life on April 7, 2003, in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, he was fatally wounded in an action at Fallujah in Al Anbar province when he stepped in front of a fellow Marine, Eddie Wright, who was seriously injured but had his life spared because of the actions of the gallant Captain Morel; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tennessee, Morel was a 1994 graduate of Bartlett High School; he transferred to the University of Tennessee at Martin from the University of Memphis before his sophomore year of college and joined the Marine Forces Reserve in 1995; and

WHEREAS, this patriotic Tennessean attended Officer Candidates School during the summers of his college years and quickly developed a reputation for excellence as he completed his training; upon graduating with a Bachelor's degree in History in 1999, he accepted a commission as a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, he excelled in his first assignment in Intelligence at Quantico, Virginia and continued to perform with distinction at 29 Palms, California until being deployed to Japan during the opening stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, after ten months at Okinawa, he was assigned to the elite Marine Force Recon as a platoon commander; on February 25, 2004, he deployed to Iraq with his unit; and

WHEREAS, Captain Brent Morel lived as an embodiment of the Marine motto *Semper Fidelis* - "Always Faithful"; he believed deeply in America and the virtue of its cause and never hesitated to sacrifice personally to defend his beloved nation, its citizens, or a fellow Marine; and

WHEREAS, this superlative individual received numerous awards, and he was a true hero to those who knew him best; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order, and he will be dearly missed by his wife, Amy, his parents, Mike and Molly Morel, his sister and brother-in-law, Marcy and Richard Woods, his niece, Madison, his grandparents, Paul and Georgette Smith, and the rest of his family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in military life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, his life is an inspiration to all of us, and his legacy will not be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have had their lives touched by Captain Morel; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional Marine and human being, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Captain Brent L. Morel, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his limitless courage, and his stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Captain Morel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.